

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, March 15, 2005 2:50 p.m. Room 307 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Nitz, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law and Sheltroun. (11/11)

Representative Stahl made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2005, supported by Representative Law. No objections being offered, a unanimous ballot was cast to adopt the minutes as presented.

Brad Deacon and Rich Harlow, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), provided a presentation to the Committee regarding Michigan Farmland Preservation Initiatives. Topics discussed included: Current Farmland Preservation Programs, the State Purchase of Development Rights and the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund. Questions and discussion followed.

Representative Howard Walker spoke to the Committee regarding the provisions of HB 4257. HB 4157 entails:

HB 4257 Walker Taxation; farmland and open space; agricultural security areas;
provide for.

Comment: Does this mean the Chair didn't lay the bill before the committee? It just came up as part of the testimony?

Ron Nelson, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, spoke to the Committee regarding the Farmland Preservation Act and related Farm Bureau policies.

Mary LaFrance of Brownstown Township, representing Wayne County farmers, spoke to the Committee regarding PA 116 and the ramifications of Proposal A.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Nitz declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 4:02 p.m.

Representative Neal Nitz, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk
(517) 373-8538